

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ RA: R. W. CHASE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 124127

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE USINFO WASHDC
INACT IMMEDIATE INFO COPENHAGEN NIACT IMMEDIATE FROM TEHRAN
JUNE 11 REPEATED FOR YOU:

QUOTE

SECSTATE FOR S/ PRS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CENTO, MARR

SUBJ: SECVISIT: CENTO: SECRETARY' S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY ROGERS Q AND A PRESS CON-
FERENCE AT TEHRAN AIRPORT JUNE 11.
2. BEGIN QUOTE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WANTED TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY, JUST BEFORE I LEFT, TO MEET WITH YOU BRIEFLY.
WHEN I ARRIVED, I SAID THAT I WOULD TRY TO HAVE A SHORT MEETING
WITH YOU, AND I AM HAPPY TO DO IT. I THINK THAT IT HAS BEEN A
VERY USEFUL, SHORT STAY THAT I HAVE HAD IN IRAN. AS YOU KNOW,
I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY AND HAD A VERY
SATISFACTORY DISCUSSION FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS AND HAD MEETINGS
WITH THE PPRME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AND I
MERELY WANT TO SAY THAT AS FAR AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED
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STATES AND IRAN ARE CONCERNED, THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER.
THEY ARE EXCELLENT.

3. PRESIDENT NIXON IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF THE
SHAAHAN- SHAH TO WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS FOR A

LONG TIME , AND PRESIDENT NIXON HOLDS HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM. AND SO I CONSIDER ON THE BI- LATERAL BASIS THAT THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT; I AM VERY PRIVILEGED MYSELF TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE AGAIN, AND I WANT TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY. AS AFAR AS THE CENTO MEETING WAS CONCERNED, IT GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY FIRST TO MEET WITH ALL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REPRESENTED IN CENTO ON A BI- LATERAL BASIS. WE HAD, I THINK, VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS. THE MEETING ITSELF I THINK, ON THE BASIS OF A CONSENSUS THAT WAS EXPRESSED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, WAS THE BEST ONE I HAVE ATTENDED. THIS IS MY FIFTH CENTO MEETING. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY DIRECT AND FRANK, AND WE HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH IN SOME RESPECTS WAS QUITE UNUSUAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. I THINK THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WILL REFLECT THE SATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE MEETING, AND PARTICULARLY IT WILL STRESS, AS THE CONVERSATIONS THEMSELVES, THE DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES STRESSED, THE IMPORTANCE THAT IS ATTACHED TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL THE MEMBER STATES. WE BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND I THINK IT WAS GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT THIS IS A VERY VALUABLE ALLIANCE. IT IS AN ALLIANCE THAT IS VALUABLE NOT ONLY FOR ITSELF BUT BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ALLIANCES THAT WE HAVE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST. IT PROVIDES A CONTINUATION OF THE STABILITY THAT WE THINK IS NECESSARY FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, AND SO I AM VERY PLEASED INDEED THAT THE MEETING WENT SO WELL. I THINK THAT CENTO IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT ALLIANCE, AND IT WILL DEAL ESPECIALLY WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST TODAY IN THE WORLD.

4. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPRESSED WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. I THINK THE COOPERATION THAT EXISTS, THE GROWING COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS IN THE AREA, IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. CERTAINLY THE PERSIAN GULF IS GOING TO ASSUME GREATER AND GREATER IMPORTANCE

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AS THE YEARS GO BY. AND IRAN IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THAT AREA. IT IS ESSENTIAL, WE BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE NATIONS IN THE AREA COOPERATE TOGETHER, PROVIDE REGIONAL COOPERATION, THAT THEY PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES -- AND THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME -- BUT IN THE OVERALL THEY ARE FAIRLY MINOR. THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS ARE CONSIDERATIONS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE ABILITY OF THE NATIONS IN THE AREA TO GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER, TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, THAT THERE IS NO SUBVERSION THAT UPSETS THE STABILITY OF THE AREA. AND I AM VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA SINCE I WAS LAST HERE. I WANT TO AGAIN THANK ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE HERE. I APPRECIATE THEIR COMING TO THE AIRPORT, AND I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS, IF YOU

HAVE SOME.

5. QUESTION: SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN BIERMAN OF BBC. YOU SAID THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS, IN SOME RESPECTS, QUITE UNUSUAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. COULD YOU TELL US WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT?

6. SECRETARY ROGERS: YES. USUALLY AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES EVERY MINISTER HAS A SET SPEECH THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR HIM BY SOMEBODY, AND HE READS IT. AND IT IS PRETTY DULL. THIS TIME THERE WERE NO SET SPEECHES. EVERYONE SPOKE THE THINGS THAT WERE ON HIS MIND. AFTER EACH MINISTER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY WHAT WAS ON HIS MIND AND TO SPEAK QUITE FRANKLY, THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. QUESTIONS WERE ASKED, AND WE HAD A LIVELY EXCHANGE OF OPINION. 5#3 43 7)5 2 AS THAT, I THINK, THERE WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT CLIMATE. IN FACT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN, WHO SAID THAT HE HAD ATTENDED MEETINGS IN CENTO FOR TEN YEARS, SAID THAT THIS WAS BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING, THE MOST SATISFACTORY MEET THAT HE HAD EVER BEEN TO. AND I THINK THAT WAS REFLECTED BY THE COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. CERTAINLY IT IS TRUE, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED. THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR THAT I HAVE ATTENDED.

M QUESTION: MR. ROGERS, TO WHAT WILL YOU ASCRIBE THE SUCCESS OF THIS MEETING? OF AN ALLIANCE WHICH SOME YEARS AGO THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES WERE TENDING TO WRITE OFF AS A PAPER ALLIANCE?

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8. SECRETARY: WELL, I THINK THAT THERE IS A TENDENCY, WHEN THE WORLD IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION TO DETENTE, TO FEEL THAT SOMEHOW ALLIANCES ARE NOT IMPORTANT, AND TO SAY (EACH NATION SO SAY TO ITSELF) WELL, NOW THINGS ARE GOING VERY WELL IN THE WORLD; LET'S JUST PUT ASIDE THESE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE SERVED US WELL IN THE PAST. THIS (MEETING) WAS A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT. IT SEEMED TO ME, OF THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING THE ALLIANCES THAT HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE EAST AND WEST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. AND WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT AS THE WORLD MOVES AWAY FROM ACTIVE CONFLICT AND AS THE WORLD MOVES AWAY FROM NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION, AND HOPEFULLY MOVES AWAY FROM ANY MAJOR CONFLICTS AMONG THE NATIONS, THAT THERE ARE OTHER DANGERS THAT OCCUR. DANGERS OF SUBVERSION; THINGS OF THAT KIND.

9. AND ALSO, YOU REALIZE THE NECESSITY OF EQUILIBRIUM, STABILITY IF YOU WILL, IN AN AREA. AND THAT CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY REGIONAL COOPERATION. THIS ORGANIZATION CONSISTS OF NATIONS IN THE REGION THAT WORK WELL TOGETHER. I AM SPEAKING ABOUT IRAN, TURKEY AND PAKISTAN. IT ALSO INCLUDES THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES. YOU PUT THOSE NATIONS TOGETHER, IT SERVES A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE. THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON WHAT I THINK IS A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE VALUE OF THIS KIND OF ALLIANCE. NOT AN OLD FASHIONED APPRAISAL, NOT AN APPRAISAL THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RELEVANT TWENTY YEARS AGO OR FIFTEEN YEARS AGO OR TEN YEARS AGO,

BUT AN APPRAISAL THAT IS RELEVANT TODAY. AND THEREFORE I BELIEVE THAT WE LEFT THE MEETING WITH A SORT OF RENEWED INSPIRATION, A RENEWED SPIRIT ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF CENTO.

10. QUESTION: HILARY BROWN, CBS. YOU MENTIONED OR YOU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF. DOES THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THE ARMS BUILD- UP IN ALL THESE STATES OR THE RICHER STATES ALONG THE GULF TO BE PART OF THIS STABILITY?

11. SECRETARY: WELL THAT REALLY DEPENDS UPON WHAT IS MEANT BY ARMS BUILDUP. IF ARMS BUILD- UP MEANS AN ARMS RACE, SO THAT EVERYONE IS MADLY ATTEMPTING TO GET A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ARMS, THAT IS AN UNDESIRABLE SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS HISTORY THAT CERTAINLY TEACHES US THAT IF THERE ARE NATIONS THAT ARE STRONG IN AN AREA-- OR NATIONS THAT HAVE ULTERIOR PURPOSES IN AN AREA ARE STRONG AND THERE ARE WEAK NATIONS NEARBY-- THAT IS AN INVITATION TO TROUBLE. SO A REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY STRENGTH VIS- A- VIS THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF POSSIBLE ADVERSARIES IS NOT A BAD SITUATION; UNCLASSIFIED

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IT IS A STABILIZING SITUATION. IN A SENSE THAT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, OR TO PUT IT DIFFERENTLY, BETWEEN THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO. SO WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES IN IRAN, THE DESIRE ON THE PART OF SAUDI ARABIA TO BE STRONGER MILITARILY CAUSES ANY DANGER. WE THINK IT IS STABILIZING TO THAT EXTENT.

12. QUESTION: WERE THE SOVIET UNION TO SUPPLY ARMS SAY AT THE SAME LEVEL-- TO THE IRAQIS, WOULD THIS NOT CAUSE THE ARMS RACE WHICH YOU SAY WOULD BE A BAD THING?

13. SECRETARY: WELL IT DEPENDS UPON THE EXTENT. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONVERSE? SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A SITUATION WHERE THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPLYING TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF ARMS TO ONE COUNTRY AND THE NEIGHBOR COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE ANY. THAT IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION. IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU HAVE A STRONG NATION, STRONG MILITARILY, THAT HAS AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS AND A VERY WEAK NATION NEXT TO IT, THAT IS AN INVITATION TO TROUBLE.

13. QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, A DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION OF

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